

AT A REGULAR MEETING OF THE MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY, HELD ON THE 5<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JANUARY 2015, 7:00 P.M., MULTI PURPOSE ROOM #2, MONTGOMERY COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER, CHRISTIANSBURG, VIRGINIA:

|                 |                  |                         |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>PRESENT:</b> | William Brown    | -Chair                  |
|                 | Christopher Tuck | -Vice Chair             |
|                 | Mary Biggs       | -Secretary-Treasurer    |
|                 | Annette Perkins  | -Member                 |
|                 | Todd King        | -Member                 |
|                 | Matthew Gabriele | -Member                 |
|                 | Gary Creed       | -Member                 |
|                 | Robert C. Fronk  | -PSA Director           |
|                 | Karri Cridlin    | -Secretary to PSA Board |
|                 | Craig Meadows    | -County Administrator   |
|                 | Marty McMahon    | -County Attorney        |

**ABSENT:**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair William Brown called the meeting to order and determined that a quorum was present.

### **PUBLIC ADDRESS SESSION**

There were no comments from the public

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

On a motion by Mary Biggs, seconded by Todd King, and carried; IT WAS RESOLVED, that the Public Service Authority hereby approves the Consent Agenda, dated January 05, 2015.

The roll call vote on the foregoing motion is as follows:

| AYE              | NAY | ABSENT |
|------------------|-----|--------|
| Mary Biggs       |     |        |
| Todd King        |     |        |
| Christopher Tuck |     |        |
| Annette Perkins  |     |        |
| William Brown    |     |        |
| Gary Creed       |     |        |
| Matthew Gabriele |     |        |

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

The financial report for period ending December 31, 2014, was presented for review and discussion.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

#### **1. Monthly Activities Report**

The December 2014 report was presented for review.

#### **2. Water Breaks / Pipe Failures at Elliston-Lafayette Elementary School**

We experienced three water breaks on the 8" PVC pipe main to the new Elliston-Lafayette Elementary School on June 18, June 20, and July 2, 2014. There have been at least six pipe failures of the same nature on the 8" PVC pipe main since October 2012. The pipe failures

were straight-line splits in the “bell” end of the pipe. We kept damaged pipe joint sections from the last 2 breaks and sent one to the pipe manufacturer for evaluation. The pipe manufacturer’s report stated the pipe failure was the result of improper installation and “additional joints are susceptible to similar stress induced failures.”

After coordinating with Montgomery County Public School (MCPS), MCPS staff issued a letter to the general contractor claiming a “Latent Defect” in the water line installation. A meeting was held October 1, 2014 with the general contractor, pipeline subcontractor, MCPS staff and PSA staff to review the situation and available information. The pipeline subcontractor submitted a letter dated November 5, 2014 claiming that even-though the pipe was installed/joined improperly, the fault is from over-compaction of the fill material above the pipe as required by the project specifications.

On November 11, 2014, MCPS staff questioned the pipeline subcontractor’s claim and asked the general contractor to state their position relative to the pipeline subcontractor’s claim. On November 25, 2014, the general contractor replied to say they are “seeking the advice of third party experts” and “want to resolve the issue as quickly as possible.” On December 18, 2014, MCPS staff asked the general contractor when they could expect an answer to which we are currently awaiting a reply.

### **3. Class 1 Wastewater Operators**

Two PSA wastewater operators, Noah Adams and Robert Marshall, passed the Virginia Class 1 Wastewater License Exam in December 2014. Both started their wastewater treatment careers with the PSA; Noah Adams started on April 11, 2012 and Robert Marshall started May 1, 2008.

They are the first operators to acquire the Class 1 Wastewater License in recent memory. This is a significant accomplishment for any wastewater operator.

### **4. Auburn High School Wastewater Discharge**

One of the conditions to release final certificate of occupancy (C.O.) to the new high school was collection and analysis of wastewater samples to confirm compliance with PSA discharge limits. Two samples were collected from the school on June 16, 2014 and analyzed for parameters of concern at the Riner Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). The Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen (TKN) results for both samples were magnitudes greater than the DEQ permit limit for the Riner WWTP. This is a significant concern as wastewater from the schools comprises about half of the total flow to the WWTP and excessive TKN loading could exceed WWTP removal capacity resulting in permit violations. The PSA has been analyzing TKN samples at the Riner WWTP since July 2014 to establish background loading and treatment removal capacity.

On October 21, 2014 the school collected and analyzed two additional sets of samples and both also indicated excessive TKN. PSA staff collected samples on November 20, 2014 from the sewer system serving the high school and elementary school and the results were high, but not as excessive as those taken directly from the school.

We are continuing to evaluate the operation of the Riner WWTP to determine the maximum TKN loading which can be removed through regular operation. We are currently monitoring the effect of colder temperatures as this is a significant factor.

### **5. New Maintenance Crew Hire**

We advertised for a Maintenance Worker on November 30 and December 7, 2014 to fill a recent vacancy. Interviews were held by the entire maintenance crew on December 19, 2014. Michael Wilson of Blacksburg was hired with a starting date of January 5, 2015.

### **6. DEQ Warning Letter Elliston-Lafayette Wastewater Treatment Plant**

We received a Warning Letter dated December 10, 2014 from DEQ for failure to submit a local limits reevaluation that was due December 1, 2014. Staff overlooked this requirement during their review of the issued permit.

Due to the limited time to complete the evaluation, we assigned the work to Anderson & Associates under our term contract at a cost of \$5,870. We notified DEQ of the work schedule and expected completion in January 2015.

### **7. Improper Discharges to the Warm Hearth Wastewater Pump Station**

The updated Warm Hearth Wastewater Pump Station (WWPS) installed in 2010 was configured by installing a new pump vault in series with the old pump vault that was installed in 1982. The old pump vault was set up to act as a grease trap/solids separator to prevent unsuitable materials from entering the new pump vault and clogging the pumps.

The facility owner previously agreed to pay for the pumping and disposal of the unsuitable materials collected in the old pump vault.

On December 22, 2014, the old pump vault was pumped out by a local septic tank contractor who then attempted to dispose of the materials at the Roanoke Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). During the unloading, the WWTP staff stopped the contractor and informed them that the WWTP would no longer accept the material since it contained “gauze and some sort of medical mesh.” The contractor was informed they would be banned from any future use of the WWTP if they ever again attempted to dispose that type of material at the WWTP. We allowed the contractor to unload the remaining material in the sludge pit at the Shawsville WWTP. The unsuitable material appears to be adult diapers and personal wipes/towels.

We plan to inform the facility owner of the issue and request they cease discharging the unsuitable materials.

#### **8. Employee Long-Term Absence**

A PSA Wastewater Operator experienced a non-duty related leg injury which is expected to result in a long-term medical absence of 3 to 5 months. The injury occurred during the morning of December 20, 2014 and resulted in the employee undergoing surgery that same day.

#### **9. Hard Water Bill Insert**

Attached is a draft of a bill insert titled “Information about Hard Water.” We’ve had several inquiries from Riner water customers and wanted to supply basic information about hard water to customers who receive ground water. This insert will be included in future billing for customers of the Riner and Woodview water systems.

#### **AUTHORITY MEMBERS’ REPORT**

Member Gabriele- No Report

Member King- No Report

Member Perkins- No Report

Member Creed – No Report

Member Biggs- No Report

Member Tuck - No Report

Member Brown - No Report

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Chair adjourned this meeting to the next meeting scheduled for March 2, 2015.